

Cuba

Call from Mr. Yarmolinsky:

✓ May 22, 1963

Re: page 8467 of the Congressional Record for May 20 (a report by Congressman Battin of an ad hoc committee of conservative Republicans which reviewed the Stennis Report and particularly compared statements in the Stennis Report with Administration statements).

Mr. Yarmolinsky said there are 2 or 3 press conference questions that might be based on this comparison (although he feels this is beating a dead horse and he sees no problem on it).

Q. One question might quote the report on the overwhelming evidence of Cuba as a base for subversion and the McNamara TV quote (Feb. 6) that he had no such evidence.

Mr. Y comments I suppose the answer would be that McNamara was speaking in a context of exporting arms and men rather than propaganda, and also that much evidence has come in since February 6.

Q. One question might compare the McNamara statement that we saw as many missiles come in as went out, with the statement in the report that we had not seen as many in place as we had seen removed.

Mr. Y comments McNamara made a mistake, but I don't see that the President needs to get into it. The point is that the intelligence community is agreed that all the missiles that came in have been removed.

Q. A third question might contrast the President's statement at an Aug. 29 press conference that "we do not have information that troops have come into Cuba" with the Committee statement referring to the same period that "refugee, exile, and other human source reports suggested that, in contrast to the earlier arrivals, the new arrivals were Soviet combat troops."

Mr. Y comments Here, I think the point to make is that the next sentence of the Committee report says "the intelligence community adhered to the view that they were military instructors, advisers and trainers"...

Q. Lastly, a question might contrast the statement in the DOD pamphlet published Oct. 29 that "some 5000 Soviet personnel are located throughout the island" with the Report statement that on Oct. 22 the intelligence community estimated the Soviet personnel to be 8,000 to 10,000.

Mr. Y
comments

Here again I think the answer could stress the agreement that there has been a net reduction.